



FACT SHEET

DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE OFFICE **PROJECT PROFILE**
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM (CEP)

JUNE 2010



Student receiving school supplies

CHALLENGES

- Public is disillusioned with a lack of progress in peace negotiations.
- Day-to-day logistical difficulties and frustrations.
- Lack of momentum hurts moderate leaders and peace efforts.
- Complicated and unstable political context.
- Limits on program implementation imposed by the separation barrier and the blockade on Gaza.
- Results of the local elections, as well as the political situation in Gaza, complicate work with some critical and major municipalities.

Project Overview

Through community-focused grants, CEP aims to improve the quality of life for Palestinians and increase confidence in the peace process. Its multi-disciplinary approach provides technical assistance and in-kind, community-focused grants to local government institutions that offer viable democratic alternatives to extremism that resonate with progressive, moderate Palestinians. CEP also includes a flexible programmatic tool for responding to urgent humanitarian situations such as Israeli military action in by providing both humanitarian relief and assistance and early recovery support.

Goals

- Increase confidence in peace process through localized improvements.
- Strengthen key civil society institutions and democratic leadership.
- Improve quality of life in key areas.
- Respond to humanitarian crises.

Activities

CEP works directly with the Palestinian Authority institutions including ministries, municipal councils and village councils on grant initiatives that fund small-scale reconstruction and rehabilitation projects such as schools, sports facilities, and public and recreational programs.

Through technical assistance initiatives, CEP expands capacity development with government and non-government entities, working directly with the Ministry of Transportation, Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Youth and Sport, and the Ministry of Justice. To date, CEP has worked with **47** government entities throughout the West Bank.

CEP also works to build the capacity of non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations throughout the West Bank and Gaza. To date, CEP has worked with **52** non-government bodies throughout the West Bank and Gaza.

In addition, CEP provides humanitarian assistance to Gaza through seven international non-governmental organizations. Three rounds of such assistance have been completed as of June 2010, with a fourth round under implementation.

Early recovery activities, implemented through grants to nine international non-governmental organizations and valued at approximately \$15 million, aim to support Gazans who suffered the consequences of Israeli military action. This support ranges from



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Mother and daughter receiving school uniforms

psychosocial activities and cash-for-work projects to small-scale home renovations and winterization.

Successes

- Began purchasing urgently needed food, medicines and plastic sheeting within 48 hours of the first bombs of Operation Cast Lead.
- Stood up a humanitarian pipeline that has provided over \$16 million in assistance to the people of Gaza throughout the implementation of 44 grants, with the implementation of 23 additional grants valued at approximately \$23 million seeking to target other beneficiaries.
- Completed three rounds of humanitarian relief and assistance grants to Gaza valued at approximately \$15 million, with the implementation of a fourth round of grants valued at approximately \$5.5 million.
- Established an efficient transportation method for the shipment of commodities into Gaza, helping as well as other Mission initiatives and stakeholders with shipping goods into Gaza.
- Supported economic and social development through activities such as grant programs in Jenin and Hebron following improvements in the effectiveness of security.
- Issued capacity building projects implemented under 29 grants, valued at approximately \$2 million, throughout the West Bank, which have included training staff and procuring equipment.

Project Detail

Implementing Partner: ARD Inc.; Life of Project: 09/29/2008-09/29/2011; Total Estimated Cost: \$60,500,000.

CONTACT INFO

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